

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. The period under 37 CFR 1.304 for seeking court review of the decision by the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences rendered 11/25/2011 has expired and no further action has been taken by appellant. The proceedings as to the rejected claims are considered terminated; see 37 CFR 1.197(b).

The Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences affirmed the rejections against independent claims 9 and 14, but reversed all rejections against claims 16 and its dependent claims thereon. The independent claims 9 and 14 (and corresponding dependent claims) are cancelled by the examiner in accordance with MPEP § 1214.06.

No outstanding formal matters remain.

2. Claims 1-8, 16-18, 22-25 and 37-39 are allowed.

Conclusion

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to FARZANA HOSSAIN whose telephone number is (571)272-5943. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 9:00 am to 5:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Pankaj Kumar can be reached on 571-272-3011. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/FARZANA HOSSAIN/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2424

February 1, 2012